

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: Nov. 3, 2005

Contact: Jill Warren Lucas
Phone: 919/733-5612

NORTH CAROLINA RECLAIMS TOP BUSINESS RANKING IN 'SITE SELECTION' MAGAZINE

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today announced that North Carolina has once again been named the state with the “Top Business Climate” by *Site Selection* magazine.

“North Carolina has maintained this No. 1 ranking for four out of the last five years,” said Easley. “It is further proof that our aggressive economic development efforts are working. Our investments in infrastructure, education and workforce training continue to meet and exceed the needs of companies that choose to locate and expand in our state.”

Site Selection, one of the nation’s premier magazines for economic development, credited the state for providing needed incentives to lure top quality jobs to North Carolina. Specifically, the One North Carolina Fund has created 17,000 jobs and more than \$2 billion in investment since 2001. The Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG), which awards up to 25 grants annually to strategically important new and expanding businesses and industrial projects, has created more than 10,000 jobs and \$1.9 billion in investment.

“Corporate site selectors indicated that North Carolina is highly responsive to the needs of an increasingly competitive marketplace,” said *Site Selection* editor Mark Arend. “This year’s ranking shows that North Carolina’s business-friendly environment can compete and win in the challenging business climate arena.”

The magazine’s “Top Business Climate” rankings are based on two factors: Fifty percent comes from a survey of corporate site selection executives, with the other 50 percent based on four different measures of new plant activity as tracked by *Site Selection* in its New Plant database. Arend said the combination makes the ranking “a blend of objective information based on actual new or expansion project announcements and subjective input from corporate site seekers who indicated their top states in an online survey conducted in August.”

The article naming North Carolina as No. 1 can be found on line at <http://www.siteselection.com/>

###